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SUB: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY: STATEMENTS BY DEPUTIES NGO VAN NHAM AND TRAN TAN VIET

1. AFTERNOON EDITION (VIETNAMEEL) SEPTEMBER 22 SEMI-OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS REPORTED INTERVIEW WITH ARVN DOCTOR NGO VAN NHAM, CA DEPUTY FROM BINH DINH PROVINCE. NHAM EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR PARLIAMENTARY OR MODIFIED PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. PURE PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM NOT ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE ANY VIETNAMESE LEGISLATURE BOUND TO BE TOO FACTIONALIZED TO

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PROVIDE MEANINGFUL CHECK TO PRESIDENT. "PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM CAN LEAD TO DICTATORSHIP...WHILE PARLIAMENTARY ONE-CAN MAINTAIN EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATURE." NHAM SAID, HOWEVER, THAT CHIEF OF STATE CAN BE GIVEN BROAD EMERGENCY POWERS TO MEET NEED FOR STRONG EXECUTIVE IN TIME OF POLITICAL, MILITARY OR ECONOMIC CRISIS.

2. NHAM WENT ON TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ONCE ELECTED, WOULD DIVIDE INTO TWO MAIN POLITICAL BLOCKS EACH OF WHICH WOULD SELECT FROM ITS MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATE FOR CHIEF OF STATE OR PRESIDENT (IN MODIFIED PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM) WHO THEN WOULD BE CHOSEN BY POPULAR VOTE.

3. NHAM CONCLUDED INTERVIEW BY COMMENTING THET IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FOR NEW CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOR APPOINTED UPPER HOUSE SO THAT "NOTABLES AND MEN OF TALENT" WHO CHOSE NOT TO RUN FOR THE ASSEMBLY CAN PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. IF SUCH AN INSTITUTION CREATED, IT SHOULD ALSO HAVE RIGHT TO SELECT CANDIDATE FOR POSITION OF CHIEF OF STATE.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zuber DATE 10/5/81
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TS AUTH. REASON(S)
E.O. 12356 EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
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4. SAME EDITION VIET NAM PRESS ALSO CARRIES INTERVIEW OF TRAN TAN VIET, VNQDD DEP [illegible] FROM THUA THIEN. VIET PREFERS THAT CA DOES NOT BECOME LEGISLATURE SINCE TALENTS REQUIRED FOR

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THESE TWO INSTITUTIONS ARE DIFFERENT. MOREOVER, MANY TALENTED PEOPLE DID NOT RUN IN RECENT ELECTION AND MUST BE GIVEN CHANCE. ASKED FOR VIEWS ON WHAT TYPE OF GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EMERGE, VIET STATES PREFERENCE FOR PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE SYSTEM "SUITABLE TO VIETNAMESE ENVIRONMENT AND NOT BE MERE IMITATION OF FOREIGN REGIME."
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